

# Hawaii MARINE LIFESTYLES

HAWAII MARINE B SECTION

SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

## Honolulu Fish Auction

### Reeling the buyers in

**Story and Photos by  
Christine Cabalo**

*Photojournalist*

Buyers have to get up pretty early in the morning to land the best catches at the Honolulu Fish Auction.

Bidding starts with the ring of the 5:30 a.m. opening bell used since the auction began in 1952. Operated by United Fishing Agency, it's the fifth largest in revenue for selling fish in the nation.

Buyers contend for the best stock, and 60 percent of the fish sold are used by local businesses. Delicacy items, such as swordfish, may be sent to Japan or Boston for consumption. Fishers dock their boats right next to the 20,000-square-foot building on Pier 38 of Honolulu Harbor to unload their fresh catch.

"We're one of the largest display auctions where buyers can taste the product before buying it," said Brooks Takenaka, manager, United Fishing Agency. "Fisherman gill and gut fish at sea, then fill the fish with ice. It stops bacteria from growing and ensures a better quality."

Display samples are available for people at the auction to judge the quality of the catch. Takenaka said fish with bright red flesh are the most prized for freshness and flavor. Bidders check the flesh for "burn" or the breakdown of the meat because of lactic acid released during a difficult struggle to reel in.

The high standards of the auction have drawn in hundreds of people to visit the auction floor. Many are repeat visitors including Leta Wright, a former server at the

Shore Bird Restaurant in the Outrigger Waikiki Hotel.

"This is my twenty-fifth visit to the auction in about two years," she said. "Working at the restaurant, we went through almost 16 pounds of fish every day. I like bringing down people so they can see how it all starts before dinner is on their plate."

The agency is forming a tour guide program to keep up with increased visits from the public, Takenaka said. The agency manager said expansion plans include conducting classes on cooking and marine biology at the facility. Currently, he speaks with top Honolulu chefs about seafood quality, and the marine biologist will meet with culinary students at the University of Hawaii at Hilo within a few weeks. In October, the agency will bring back the open house fishing festival for its second year.

The main goal of the agency is to keep the auction running for as long as it can, said Frank Goto, general manager, United Fishing Agency. Goto, who retired from the Army as a warehouse foreman, has been with the company since it formed. He said he remembers when the local fleet of aku or skipjack tuna fishermen traveled through Pearl Harbor and Kaneohe Bay regularly.

"There were lots of resources in Kaneohe Bay," Goto said. "The Navy at that time allowed vessels to get live bait for skipjack tuna. The Bay had a lot of nehu, which was used to hook the tuna."

Reminders of the first auctions surround the agency's offices, as photographs of Matsujiro Otani, agency founder, are prominently displayed. Matsujiro's son Akira is the current president, and his sons work at the offices to keep the family business running.

"People have told us their parents used to take them down to see the auction when they were children," said Floyd Otani, grandson of the agency founder. "We're hoping to continue that tradition."



Wayne Higashi (middle), auctioneer at United Fishing Agency, bends down to read a tag before bidding begins. About 60 percent of fish sold at the auction remains in Hawaii for restaurants and grocery stores. The auction is Monday through Saturday, beginning with the ringing of the 5:30 a.m. opening bell.

#### Are you a good fish or a bad fish?

Brooks Takenaka, manager of United Fishing Agency, said there are several ways to tell if a fish is a good catch, no matter its species.

##### Eyes

A fresh catch will have clear bulging eyes, and if the eyes appear cloudy it's a sign of age which may impact flavor.

##### Gills

Gills should have a red hue if the fish was hooked recently. Buyers should avoid purple or brown gills.

##### Scales

Damaged scales mean the fish was moved repeatedly. Unbroken scales mean the fish is fresh from the sea.

##### Flesh

Fish meat should be a rich red with translucent parts of fat, and spring to the touch. If the flesh is difficult to push into or pale, it's an older catch.

##### Smell

The inside of a fresh catch should still smell like the sea or have no smell at all. Steer clear of older fish with ammonia or decaying smells.

The Honolulu Fish Auction meets Monday to Saturday, and the opening bell sounds at 5:30 a.m. Operated by the United Fishing Agency on Pier 38 of Honolulu Harbor, the auction is located at 1131 Nimitz Highway. For more information, call 536-2148.



Frank Goto, general manager, United Fishing Agency, points inside a scale model of a boat used to fish aku, or skipjack tuna. The vessel's compartments would hold nehu fish found in Kaneohe Bay as bait to catch the bigger skipjack. The fisherman would also use these holds to store their catch in ice.



Samples from three areas inside the ahi, or tuna, are taken for inspection, and buyers can taste the raw fish to determine its quality. Left: Hesu Marino, a United Fishing Agency worker, lays a tuna sample out for display. Marino uses a corer, sticking it under the fin to collect the piece. The auction sells a variety of fish, including mahimahi, opakapaka and swordfish.



Fresh opah, or moonfish, are iced down Aug. 31 on the auction floor of the Honolulu Fish Auction. Each fish is given a color-coded tag that lists its weight and the name of the fishing company who hooked it.



# Aviator strikes the right chord with fans

Christine Cabalo

Photojournalist

Fans of Tim Weber love to see him perform because he hits all the right notes, as a pilot and guitarist.

At the 2007 “Blues on the Bay” air show Oct. 13-14, Weber will fly to songs he wrote and recorded. A self-taught guitar player, the pilot resides in Phoenix where he works on his music and aerobatics.

Flying professionally was Weber’s dream since age 13. Trading hangar work for flying lessons, sometimes ten hours of his hard labor would allow him ten minutes behind the controls of a glider. The experience was invaluable, he said, now piloting the aerobatic Extra 300 S airplane.

“It’s almost like getting into a time machine,” the pilot said. “I’m having such an amazing time, I don’t know where the time goes. It’s sad that not everyone has experienced the feeling.”

The Phoenix pilot has tried to express that feeling in his music, and he performs to several of the songs from his first album “Tumblin” during air shows. Rob Reider, bassist and air show announcer, said he enjoys the pilot’s music because it is great rock ‘n’ roll

anyone can listen to. Whenever he announces at the pilot’s air shows, Reider said he’s almost too excited to speak during Weber’s performance.

“I rarely talk over his singing,” he said. “I only speak during the instrumental parts, and even then I do it sparingly because he’s such a good lead guitarist.”

Weber’s songs “Addicted to Tumblin’” and “On the Spot” have an upbeat cadence he matches in his aerial maneuvers. Another song he performs to, “Pushing It Up,” is a tribute he wrote to thank the armed forces. The guitarist said he’s musically eclectic, and the performer is already working on a second album with an R&B and country sound.

“I don’t really have a formula for composing,” he said. “I’ll have a concept going in my mind and find a good guitar melody. I’ll find chords and set up a structure after that.”

The Phoenix resident said he takes his instrument along with him to different air shows to play during his free time. As a performer, he said the key to doing well with audiences is to be focused and calm.

When he’s in the cockpit, Weber looks at a dashboard stopwatch to ensure he performs his opening routines in exactly six seconds. It makes him a very precise flyer, Reider said.



Photo courtesy of Tim Weber

**Tim Weber flies in an Extra 300 S monoplane with decorative smoke trailing behind him. Weber, performing to music he wrote and recorded, will fly at this year’s “Blues on the Bay” air show. The aerobatic pilot is working on his second album, tentatively scheduled to debut in 2008.**

The announcer said he likes to see Weber’s tumbles, and the pilot showcases how resistant his plane is to physical forces.

“Tim is a very genuine guy who doesn’t go out of his way to impress people,” the announcer said. “He

impresses people when you get him into the plane, and he flies like crazy. He doesn’t boast about it.”

Appearing in air shows full time since 1996, Weber said he’s thrilled to perform in front of people no matter what he’s doing.

“I think it’s the combination of what he does that makes him fun to see,” Reider said. “It’s fun music. He’s a great pilot, and a great musician. He’s not the only musician on the air show circuit, but he’s one of the best there is.”

## Author gives Marines, Sailors chance to have book signed

Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

Combat Correspondent

John Flores, author of “When the River Dreams: The Life of Marine Sgt. Freddy Gonzales,” gave Marines and Sailors the opportunity to have their copy of the book signed Friday and Saturday at the Marine Corps Exchange here.

Flores became interested in Gonzalez and his story from the stories his co-workers told him.

“I was in the Coast Guard a while ago, and one of my petty officers used to be in the same platoon with Freddy. He used to tell me all sorts of stories about him,” Flores said.

Flores began working on the book 12 years ago when he started writing about Gonzalez’s mom and his aunt, but he could hardly get any information until the chef of the Echo Motor Hotel told him.

“Dolia Gonzalez raised Freddy on wages she earned as a waitress in a hotel, and her sister worked in the same hotel,” Flores said.

Gonzalez grew up in Texas making a living as a farmhand and only had his mom as a figurehead in his life.

He played football in high school for Fred Akers, who is quoted as saying, “This guy doesn’t have any athletic ability, but he plays hard and puts 100 percent into whatever he’s doing.”

Gonzalez joined the Marine Corps after high school and deployed to the Vietnam War as a lance corporal.

“He came back from that deployment and got promoted to sergeant,” Flores said. “He then volunteered to go back to Vietnam after he learned that the whole platoon he was with in Vietnam was wiped out by a bomb.”

Gonzalez was sent to Hue City before the Vietnamese new year offensive and was fatally wounded in action there.



**John Flores finishes signing one of his books about Sgt. Freddy Gonzalez and hands it to Mauren Bates. Bates is providing the book for workers at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific as a way to say thanks for hiring the veterans she sends to them. While not a best seller yet, Flores hopes the book will continue to be received well by Marines and Sailors.**

“Gonzalez took about a dozen anti-armor rockets with him, took up vantage points in buildings and fired the rockets at North Vietnamese positions,” Flores said. “This allowed his platoon to escape from the enemy. It is said that in his last vantage point in St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church he stood up to fire but was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade.”

Gonzalez’s platoon remembered him and his work ethic.

“No matter who I talked to in his platoon, they all remembered Freddy and his ethics,” Flores said. “He was a hard worker who believed in getting back as much as he put into it. He was the type of person who would literally give you the shirt off his back

if you needed it.”

Gonzalez was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, and has had several streets and a Naval ship named in his honor.

Flores’ self-published book has been noticed by Marines and Sailors, but he hopes Naval Institute Publishing will republish the book and make it more noticeable to others.

“The book has been well received by Marines, Sailors and Gonzalez’s platoon buddies, but I hope with the new publisher, more people will be able to read about Freddy and his exploits,” Flores said. “I am proud of the fact that it’s something the Marine Corps and the Navy like.”

## All about family



Priya S. Jenkins

**Lillian Church, 3, peers at her mother Haley through the net of a bouncy house at 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment's family day Aug. 31 at the super playground here.**



## MOVIE TIME

**Prices:** Friday and Saturday 7:15 p.m., shows are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Sunday matinee is shown at 2 p.m. Shows are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Evening showings on Sunday and Wednesday are at 6:30 p.m. and late shows are shown Friday and Saturday at 9:45 p.m. Cost is \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

For ticket pricing, the Base Theater Box Office defines an adult as a patron 12 and older and defines a child as a patron from 6 to 11. Children 5 and younger are admitted free of charge. Parents must purchase tickets for R-rated movies in person at the box office for children 16 and younger. Patrons must present their military identification card when purchasing tickets. Call 254-7642 for recorded information.

**Sneak Preview Policy:** One hour and 45 minutes prior to the movie, tickets will be issued to first priority patrons waiting in line, then second and third priority patrons.

In an effort to prevent piracy, the following security measures will be enforced on base for sneak preview screenings: bag checks, confiscation of cameras or cell phones with picture taking capability (items will be returned after screening), magnetometer wand, audience scanning with night vision goggles during screening.

The Base Theater and film companies thank you in advance for your cooperation and hope you will enjoy the show. For recorded information, call the Base Theater at 254-7642.

Hairspray (PG)  
Sunshine (R)  
The Simpson's Movie (PG-13)  
I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry (PG-13)  
Underdog (PG)  
Hairspray (PG)  
Harry Potter & The Order of the Phoenix (PG-13)  
Underdog (PG)  
No Reservations (PG)

Today at 7:15 p.m.  
Today at 9:45 p.m.  
Saturday at 7:15 p.m.  
Saturday at 9:45 p.m.  
Sunday at 2 p.m.  
Sunday at 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.  
Friday at 7:15 p.m.  
Friday at 9:45 p.m.



## Book review: ‘One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd’



**Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi**

*Combat Correspondent*

Imagine being locked up in an insane asylum by your parents and the only way to escape is to volunteer to travel across the western frontier and marry a “savage” man you’ve never met. Is the decision picking the lesser of two evils, or is it the decision to partake in a great adventure?

“One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd,” is the story of young woman who made a difficult decision and experienced a new world.

Jim Fergus’ novel takes an alternative view to one of history’s most secret scandals. In 1875, the Cheyenne Native American tribe requested something unusual from the United States government. As a way of assimilating into the “white man’s world,”

they requested 1,000 brides for their men to have children with. In reality, President Ulysses S. Grant gave a flat-out “no,” but in Fergus’ novel, the “Brides for Indians” program happens.

Heroine May Dodd volunteers to be part of the program to escape her false confinement in a mental institution. She becomes part of the first group of women sent across the Western Prairies to marry Cheyenne men. The women are a band of social outcasts, shunned from “proper” society for embracing values considered improper at the time (for May, it was living with a man she was not married to).

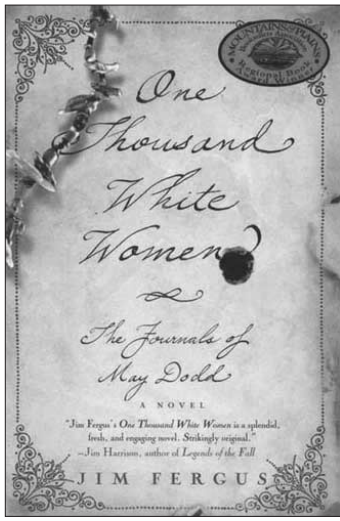
The reader follows May’s journey from the institution to the train taking them west, her marriage to the Cheyenne chief, to the destruction of the natives’ nation.

May’s journals show the difficulties of being a woman in both the white world and Cheyenne nation. In the white world, she and her fellow brides are not accepted because they push social boundaries, they’re their own person and live solely to be happy. They’re labeled as insane when they do things that, by today’s standards, are social norms. They’re shunned by their families and called disgraces. In the Cheyenne nation the

women take on opposite roles of what’s expected of them in “polite society.” The physical demands of working as Cheyenne tribe members are outside the boundaries of what they are used to.

Fergus’ novel is one of those books that’s hard to put down. I found myself constantly wondering what could possibly come in the next part of the women’s adventure. The same gender roles and suppressions are evident (although less apparent) today, and it’s hard not to find yourself relating to May. The tale is an adventure spotted with stories of love, action, history and humor.

I read a lot of other books in college, but May Dodd’s story stood out above the rest. It’s truly a story you’ll never forget.



## Movie review: ‘Amadeus’

**Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi**

*Combat Correspondent*

*Editor’s note: Hawaii Marine’s combat correspondents provide readers with in-depth reviews and unbiased ratings of films currently in theaters or past releases and classics.*

*The rating system requires some explanation before you get started.*

*If the film is currently available for rent or purchase it will be assigned a certain number of “microwaves” on a scale of one to five to rate its “reheat factor.”*

*If the film is in theaters, it will be assigned a certain number of service stripes on a scale from one to five.*

*In other words, the more microwaves or service stripes the film receives, the better and more entertaining it is to watch.*



**Rating: 5 out of 5 microwaves**

Mozart is one of the most well-known names in musical history. He wrote his first piece of music at age 4, his first symphony at 8 and a full-scale opera at 12. “Amadeus” is the fictional story about the life and murder of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

The story begins in an insane asylum years after Mozart’s death. Patient Antonio Salieri (F. Murray Abraham) claims to have murdered Mozart (Tom Hulce), telling his story to a priest who has come to absolve him

of his sins. The movie flashes back to Mozart’s prime, when he and Salieri worked for the same employer. Salieri, admitting his inferiority to Mozart, becomes jealous and blames God for making Mozart a superior composer. He can’t imagine how God would grant Mozart, a vulgar young man, such musical genius instead of him. He even refers to Mozart by his middle name, Amadeus, which translates to “loved by God.”

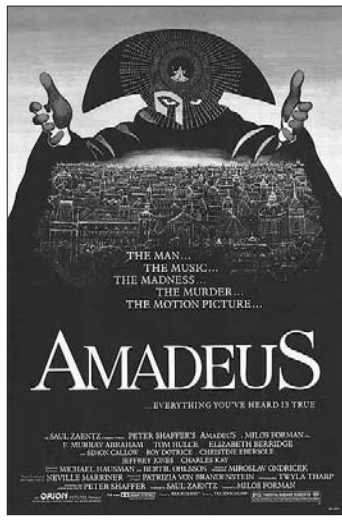
Salieri’s realization that he’s only a mediocre person ultimately drives him mad. The idea of being overshadowed by crude Mozart makes him angry with God, and he seeks to destroy Mozart to mock the almighty. At the movie’s end he says he speaks for all the world’s mediocrities, as he’s their patron saint.

The movie explores the possibilities of the real-life rumors of Mozart’s murder. Hulce, who received an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor, portrays Mozart as a conceited, vulgar young man who, despite his genius, dies a penniless alcoholic. His infamous giggle and strong acting make Hulce the center of the movie’s attention and the viewer’s affection. Hulce’s vibrant character is oddly matched with Abraham’s Salieri. Abraham, who won the Best Actor Academy Award for his role in “Amadeus,” brings a sense of slowly evoked madness to Salieri, an otherwise collected character. Even the look behind his eyes

shows Salieri’s hatred for Mozart, feeding off of Mozart’s trusting nature.

The constant, one-sided struggle between the two composers is driven not only by the actors, but also by the movie’s underlying score. Mozart’s music pulses behind the plot, helping to evoke the emotions that both the composer and director Milos Forman hoped to induce. Every note is strategically placed to help tell the varying themes behind the music, the stories of love, obsession, hatred and innocence.

The film won eight Academy Awards in 1985, to include Best Director, Best Writing and Best Picture. “Amadeus” won various other awards worldwide and stands to be a true movie masterpiece. The tagline for the film is enough to attract even the most skeptical viewer, “The Man ... The Music ... The Madness ... The Murder ... Everything you’ve heard is true.”



# Marine slogan could become immortal

**Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi**

*Combat Correspondent*

Every Marine and most Americans have seen or heard the Marine Corps recruiting slogan “The Few. The Proud. The Marines.” The slogan now has the chance to become immortalized on New York City’s Madison Avenue’s Advertising Walk of Fame as America’s favorite advertising slogan for 2007.

The competition, in its fourth year, nominates popular advertising slogans and icons, and asks people to vote for their favorites.

Past icon winners include the Kool-Aid man and the Geico Gecko, while past slogan winners include Hallmark’s “Care to send the very best,” and Texas’ Department of Transportation’s “Don’t mess with Texas.” The winning icons and slogans are written on plaques on Madison Avenue’s Walk of Fame between 49th and 50th street.

“The Few. The Proud. The Marines,” competes against slogans like California Milk Process Board’s “Got milk?” and Nike’s “Just do it!” The winner will be

announced Sept. 24.

The Marine Corps adopted the slogan in 1946 and has stood the test of time, lasting longer than recruiting slogans for other military services. For more than 60 years Marines have proudly served to uphold the slogan’s meaning.

“Obviously it tells people interested in joining the Marines that we’re selective,” said Master Gunnery Sgt. John Bertollette, recruiting instructor for U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific. “It shows them that it’s only for the select few, and you’ve got to have

what it takes to make it. It’s about being the elite fighting force.”

The slogan has held a special place in the hearts and minds of Americans for generations. Marines young and old agree the slogan was an important part of their decision to join the ranks of those before them.

“The slogan definitely influenced my decision to join up because it showed the Marines are set apart,” said Cpl. William Dewease, dispersion technician, finance office, who joined the Corps in January, 2006. “There’s

nobody like us in the world.”

The slogan is already a permanent part of American culture and can now be a permanent part of the streets of New York City. To vote for the slogan, visit <http://advertisingweek.yahoo.com>.

“I definitely think the slogan should be part of the Walk of Fame,” Dewease said. “The Marines are an important part of American culture, and just about everyone knows our slogan. What better way to show that than make it a permanent part of one of our nations’ largest cities?”







# Free products keep environment clean

Story and Photo by  
Christine Cabalo

Photojournalist

Free supplies at the Base Housing Reuse Room could mean never paying for chemical products again.

All types of household cleaners, paint and other chemical products are free at the room. Base housing residents donate items weekly to the new location near Hazardous Materials Minimization Center in Building 6407.

“Before the move, I ran the Reuse Room for about four years,” said Jerry Riggins, Self Help parts and tools supervisor, Family Housing Department. “The strangest thing someone tried to turn in once was ammunition.”

The Reuse Room’s collection is regulated to exclude base unit items like ammunition said Scot North, hazardous materials specialist, Wireless Facilities, Inc. The project’s goal is to collect leftover chemical products for base housing residents and office workers to use. The hazardous materials specialist said most residents drop off their items, though few come to get the free products.

“We’re stock full of paint,” he said. “The white paint gets used up the most because everyone wants to use it for a primer. There are all types of colors. People should think about coming here first before they buy paint because all of this is free.”

North, a former Marine, is in charge of the process since its relocation from the Self Help offices three months ago. It’s a familiar task for North, because his main duties are tracking excess hazardous materials from base units.

He’s taken full advantage of the free items by keeping his office tidy with the leftover cleaning products. A box cutter he uses at the center is painted in desert digital camouflage pattern, and it’s one of several supplies personalized with the Reuse Room’s supplies. His most elaborate effort is a model aquarium that decorates his office.

“Most of it comes from things we recycled and what we found on the beach laying around,” North said. “The tank is actually a cardboard box, and the glass is blue plastic wrap. I used paint from the Reuse Room to color the goldfish and the barrel.”

In addition to saving money, North said the environmental consequences of leaving hazardous materials unsecured are devastating. Pesticides and many other chemical products could be potentially dangerous to people and their pets.

“A lot of damage can be done with anti-freeze left sitting around,” he said. “If a neighbor’s dog got into it, then the dog could become sick or die.”

Troy Camare, hazardous materials specialist, WFI, said while anyone may take items from Reuse Room it’s important to take just what you need so nothing goes to waste.

“Only people in base housing are allowed to drop off items for the Reuse Room,” he said. “Units should not drop off their hazardous materials at the Reuse Room. This is strictly for housing.”

The room was relocated to the center so the Self Help offices could focus on other services, said the hazardous materials specialist. One of several changes to the Self Help offices, Riggins




Scot North, hazardous material specialist, Wireless Facilities Inc., examines one of several spray paint cans at the new Base Housing Reuse Room in Building 6407. North said many items were new or gently used, including latex paint and household cleaning products.

said his staff is relocating to Building 460 by Oct. 1. He said discussions are continuing with Forest City Military Communities, LLC, about what services at the new location will be offered.

Accepted items are regulated with the goal

of placing a donation where it’s most useful. Ammunition and other leftover base unit products do not go to the Reuse Room. The goal of the service is to provide useable products for base housing residents and office workers.



### RECYCLING WITH THE REUSE ROOM

The Base Housing Reuse Room is near the Hazardous Material Minimization Center in Building 6407. The center is located in the second driveway behind the P-3 airplane display at the corner of Mokapu and Reed roads. Donations from base housing residents are accepted Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 257-0770 ext. 21.

The Reuse Room has the following items for free:

**Paint:** Spray and latex paint are available in multiple shades. Paint is one of the most common items the Reuse Room receives, and it’s the item picked up the least.

**Motor oil and automotive products:** Cans of oil are only accepted by the Reuse Room if they are unopened. Automotive products may include interior and tire cleaner.

**Pesticides and other garden items:** Treatments for killing ants, roaches and other pests are available. Fertilizers for grass and other plants may be in supply as well.


**Household cleaners:** Disinfectants and various cleaning agents are free to take. Many items are not biodegradable, and no one should take more than what they need.

**Propane:** Tanks of propane may be turned in or taken for free at the Reuse Room. Hazardous material specialists will not refill your propane tank.

Created by: GySgt Charles Wolf

# SEMPERTOONS

THE GREATEST MARINE CARTOONS ON THE PLANET!







# Around the Corps

## Praise and Worship Team raises warship roof

Story and Photos by  
Cpl. Peter R. Miller

22nd MEU

**ABOARD USS KEARSARGE** — It's a quiet September evening aboard USS Kearsarge. The sky is dull, the water blue and the sea is calm. The chapel is found deep within the ship, through a maze of corridors, down tunneling stairwells.

Hidden here, Marines and Sailors of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) Praise and Worship Team drive soul into the heart of the warship.

Reaching the final descent, the rhythm of Cpl. Keith C. Baker's guitar pulsates through the door, leading a cadence of 20 voices. Baker, along with a Sailor and a fellow Marine, lead the Saturday Contemporary Christian Service in songs of praise.

"I like music and coming here makes me feel better about my life," said Baker, a data network administrator with the MEU's Command Element. "It's all about worshipping God and fellowship with other Christians."

Baker, from Clifton, Texas, has played the guitar for friends since his junior year of high school, he said. Now married, his main audience is his infant daughter who watches with fascination, peeking from his wife's arms, as he plays.

"Kaitlyn's only eight months old, but she still likes it when I play for her," Baker said.

Supported by the rhythm from Baker's deft fingers, Petty Officer 2nd Class Anna Nichols' voice resonated within the riveted walls. Nichols, a cryptologic collection technician here, has sung in church choirs since fifth grade, she said. Serving as one-third of this "blue-green" team, Nichols understands the mess that differing schedules create.

"There are so many schedules," Nichols said. "We have people who work in the mess hall, others who work on planes, and I work 12-hour shifts. Sometimes, making it to church can be tough."

The group has overcome scheduling conflicts from the beginning, said Cpl. Daniel A. Sanabria-Morales, Praise and Worship Team leader.

"During COMPTUEX, (a May pre-deployment shipboard exercise) I felt I wanted a little more variety in the services, so I approached the chaplain and asked, 'Sir, I know you're busy so is there any way that I can come and help you with the service?' It was like an answer to his prayers because he definitely wanted some-



Praise and Worship Team members Petty Officer 2nd Class Anna Nichols, a USS Kearsarge cryptologic collection technician from Caledonia, Minn., and Baker lead a contemporary Christian worship service in song aboard the USS Kearsarge.

thing like this to happen. We have been working on this project since then, and it is finally coming together."

Sanabria, a supply admin clerk by trade, has since worked with the MEU's Religious Ministry Team in his spare time to learn how to lead a contemporary Christian service in songs of worship.

"I have never done anything like this before," Sanabria said. "I have no musical inclination whatsoever, so most of the time I'm learning from the others."

"My personal singing aside, this is a good thing because we can reach people's hearts and minds better with music than preaching, and it's about reaching people for Christ," said Sanabria, a Piscataway, N.J., native.

In addition to preparing slide shows and music, Sanabria recruits musicians and participants for the services.

"To be part of the team, you don't

have to be a musician; I myself am obviously not a musician," Sanabria said. "However, if you have a love for the Lord, and this is something that appeals to you, we can always find a spot for you here."

Religious Ministry Team leader and 22nd MEU (SOC) chaplain, Navy Cmdr. Bill Appleton, also highly encourages participation in the services. According to Appleton, music frees the heart to express the deepest passions of love.

"I witness weekly the effects of inspiring Christian music upon the souls of young and old alike," Appleton said. "It's a love ballad that celebrates the relationship between Christ and his bride: the Church."

The 22nd MEU (SOC) is deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism. It consists of its Ground Combat Element, Battalion Landing Team, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment; Aviation Combat Element, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron



Corporal Keith C. Baker strums his guitar and sings during a contemporary Christian worship service aboard the USS Kearsarge.

261 (Reinforced); Logistics Combat Element, Combat Logistics Battalion 22; and Command Element. To learn more about the 22nd MEU (SOC), visit the unit's Web site at [www.22meu.usmc.mil](http://www.22meu.usmc.mil).

October  
13-14 2007  
MCBH, Kaneohe Bay



With the

Blues on the Bay  
Air Show  
Blue Angels

